REMARKS

Applicant is submitting a request for continued examination with this amendment in response to the Examiner's final Office Action dated June 25, 2001. As a result of this amendment, claims 1-28 are pending in the present application with claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, 14, 21, 22, 25 and 26 amended. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 15-20, 23, 24, 27 and 28. Reexamination and reconsideration of the rejected claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Woron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,147,083) (hereinafter "Woron") and Franz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,250,788) (hereinafter "Franz"). The Examiner rejected claims 9, 14 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Woron. The Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Franz.

Applicant has amended the rejected independent claims by replacing the term "new functions" with "sequencer functions." Amended claim 1 is directed to a musical tone generation apparatus in which the sequencer functions are set up based on the first function setting information read from the extension board, and second function setting information corresponding to the set up is sent back to the extension board to execute the sequencer functions. Claims 21 and 25 correspond to claim 1 and are directed to a method and a machine-readable media, respectively. Applicant have similarly amended claims 21 and 25.

Amended claim 9 is directed to an extension board wherein sequencer functions are executed with regard to the expansion of prescribed elements of musical tones. Applicant has similarly amended claims 22 and 26, which correspond to claim 9 and are directed to a method and a machine-readable media, respectively.

Neither of the two references cited by the Examiner discloses the execution of sequencer functions by an extension board or even sequencer functions. Woron discloses a conventional electronic digital organ 12 with an internal read-write specification memory 14. An external data

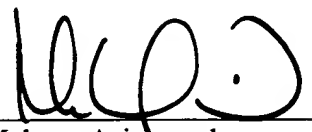
input means 16 and an external non-volatile read-write memory system 18 merely provide "voice characteristic information" relating to the timbre of the musical tone generated by the organ. Franz simply discloses an electronic organ with programs that are stored on an insertable card and can be transferred to another insertable card. The second insertable card may be installed in another organ. Nothing in Woron or Franz discloses or even suggests the execution of sequencer functions by an extension board as set forth in the amended claims.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 21, 22, 25 and 26 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by Woron and Franz. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney of record.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 39303.20148.00. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 25, 2001 By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A musical tone generation apparatus incorporating a music synthesizer and operators, comprising:

a readout for reading first function setting information from an extension board, wherein the extension board provides expansion of prescribed elements of musical tones by which [new] sequencer functions are to be executed in connection with the first function setting information;

an incorporator for setting up the [new] sequencer functions based on the first function setting information in response to manual operations applied to the operators; and

a sender for sending to the extension board second function setting information corresponding to the setup to allow the extension board to execute the [new] sequencer functions.

2. (Twice Amended) A musical tone generation apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the prescribed elements correspond to tone colors of the musical tones, and [the new functions correspond to sequencer functions by which] the musical tones are reproduced with expanded tone colors in accordance with sound patterns respectively by executing the sequencer functions.

3. (Twice Amended) A musical tone generation apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the prescribed elements correspond to tone colors of the musical tones, and [the new functions correspond to sequencer functions by which] the musical tones are sequentially reproduced with expanded tone colors in accordance with arpeggio patterns respectively by executing the sequencer functions.

5. (Twice Amended) A musical tone generation apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the operators are manipulated in a process for setting the [new] sequencer functions with regard to the expansion of the prescribed elements of the musical tones by the extension board.

9. (Twice Amended) An extension board installing a first tone generator, comprising:

an expander for expanding prescribed elements of musical tones being generated by the first tone generator; and

an executor for executing [new] sequencer functions [on the first tone generator] with regard to expansion of the prescribed elements of the musical tones.

10. (Twice Amended) An extension board according to claim 9 wherein the expander corresponds to a second tone generator, which provides expanded tone colors different from original tone colors pre-installed in the first tone generator, so that the second tone generator generates musical tones with the expanded tone colors by the [new] sequencer functions in accordance with sound patterns respectively.

11. (Twice Amended) An extension board according to claim 9 wherein the expander corresponds to a second tone generator, which provides expanded tone colors different from original tone colors pre-installed in the first tone generator, so that the second tone generator sequentially generates musical tones with the expanded tone colors by the [new] sequencer functions in accordance with arpeggio patterns respectively.

14. (Twice Amended) An extension board according to claim 9 wherein the expander corresponds to an effector[,] which provides expanded effects [being] applied to musical tones generated by the first tone generator, and the executor [corresponds to a sequencer that sequentially generated the musical tones] executes the sequence functions in such a manner that the musical tones are sequentially generated with the expanded effects at timings that are shifted from original timings for generation of the musical tones.

21. (Twice Amended) A musical tone generation method comprising the steps of:

reading first function setting information from an extension board, wherein the extension board provides expansion of prescribed elements of musical tones by which [new] sequencer functions are to be executed in connection with the first function setting information;

setting up the [new] sequencer functions based on the first function setting information in response to manual operations applied to the operators; and

sending to the extension board the second function setting information corresponding to the setup to allow the extension board to execute [new] sequencer functions.

22. (Twice Amended) A function expanding method comprising the steps of:

installing by an extension board a first tone generator;

expanding prescribed elements of musical tones being generated by the first tone generator; and

executing [new] sequencer functions [on the first tone generator] with regard to expansion of the prescribed elements of the musical tones.

25. (Twice Amended) A machine-readable media storing programs and data that cause a musical tone generation device installing an extension board to perform a musical tone generation method comprising the steps of:

reading first function setting information from the extension board, wherein the extension board provides expansion of prescribed elements of musical tones by which [new] sequencer functions are to be executed in connection with the first function setting information;

setting up the [new] sequencer functions based on the first function setting information in response to manual operations applied to the operators; and

sending to the extension board the second function setting information corresponding to the setup to allow the extension board to execute [new] sequencer functions.

26. (Twice Amended) A machine-readable media storing programs and data that cause an extension board installing a first tone generator to perform a function expanding method comprising the steps of:

expanding prescribed elements of musical tones being generated by the first tone generator; and

executing [new] sequencer functions [on the first tone generator] with regard to expansion of the prescribed elements of the musical tones.